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The most urgent matter awaiting the new administration was that of our French relations. In 1794, Monroe had sent by Washington as special envoy to France, and had received by the National Convention with every demonstration of good will. He had secured the repeal of the decree w

authorized the seizure and sale of provisions found on board United States vessels; and payment for seizures already made was promised. But Jay's mission to England, with the uncertainty as to its true purpose, had proved itself an insuperable obstacle to full unity with France. The French Government complained that the impending treaty was an infraction of the treaty existing one of 1778 between America and France. The United States Government, after it had committed

itself to the ratification of the treaty, recalled Monroe.

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At this time the French Government, whose executive power in 1795, been merged into a Directory of five members, violent offense. They alleged that

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Monroe's recall was

solely to his friendly disposition toward their country, and

immediately entered upon extreme measures of retaliation. French cruisers were ordered to treat neutrals as those neutrals

permitted the English to treat them; and, in October, 1794

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Arrest was issued directing the seizure of British property

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provisions found on board American vessels, The relations between the United States

and France were:

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In less than ten

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weeks came news of still greater importance.

The Directory, in granting Monroe his letters of

recall had

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severe language in regard to the policy of the American Government toward England, and had refused

letters of hospitality to Pinckney, who had been

sent as Monroe's successor. Ac immediately called an extra session of Congress to' mee May 15th, and opened it with a speech of warlike tone. answers of the two Houses were of a similar character, ar this spirit they began legislation. With this special ses of Congress began Jefferson's first service as the perma presiding officer of a deliberative body. The duties were entirely strange to him, for he had often been called to the (